Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 16-19, amend claims 1, 3, 4-7, 9, 11, 13-15, and 20-26 and add new claims 27-30 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A system for identifying a ruminant being milked, ~~said system including~~ comprising:

[[■]] a transmitter ~~attached~~ selectively attachable to a hind part of the ruminant and ~~operable to transmit~~ transmitting a predefined signal identifying the ruminant to which said transmitter is attached; and

[[■]] ~~at least one~~ a teat cup positionable on a teat of the ruminant being milked and having an antenna affixed thereto, said antenna ~~operable to receive~~ receiving the predefined signal and to provide the signal via a receiver device to a processor for interpreting the predefined signal thereby identifying the ruminant being milked.

Claim 2 (Original). A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is adapted for attachment to a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 2 wherein said transmitter includes a strap for attachment of the transmitter ~~is attachable~~ to the hind leg ~~by a strap~~ of the ruminant.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 3 wherein said strap comprises [[is an]] elastic [[strap]].

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 2 wherein said transmitter is part of a tag, said tag being selectively attachable to the hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim [[5]] 1 wherein said ~~tag is an electronic ear tag~~ antenna has a range of 10 to 15 cm.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is selectively attachable ~~adapted for attachment~~ above the hock of a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 8 (Original). A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is a transponder.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 8 wherein said system further ~~includes~~ comprises a stationary interrogation unit, said unit including a transmitter and a receiver.

Claim 10 (Original). A system according to claim 8 wherein said transponder is adapted for attachment to a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 10 wherein said transponder includes a strap for attachment of the transponder ~~is attachable~~ to the hind leg ~~by a strap~~ of the ruminant.

Claim 12 (Original). A system according to claim 11 wherein said strap is an elastic strap.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 10 wherein said transponder is part of a tag, said tag being selectively attachable to the hind leg.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim [[13]] 1 wherein said antenna comprises a wire coil antenna ~~tag is an electronic ear tag~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A system according to claim 8 wherein said transponder is ~~adapted for attachment~~ selectively attachable above the hock of a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 16-19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). A method for identifying a ruminant, said method ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

[[■]] attaching a ~~means for collecting~~ device which collects milk to a teat of a ruminant, the ~~means for collecting~~ milk collecting device having an antenna operatively coupled ~~affixed~~ thereto;

[[■]] affixing a transmitter to a hind part of the ruminant, the transmitter transmitting a predefined signal identifying the ruminant;

[[■]] receiving the transmitted predefined signal by the antenna; and

[[■]] transferring the predefined signal via a receiver device to a processor which processes the signal and identifies the ruminant [[on]] to which the ~~means for collecting~~ milk collecting device is attached.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step [[is]] comprises a step of affixing a transponder.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step ~~is effected by~~ comprises affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 22 wherein said affixing step ~~is effected by~~ comprises affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant using a strap.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 23 wherein said affixing step ~~is effected by~~ comprises affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant using an elastic strap.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 22 wherein said affixing step ~~is effected by~~ comprises affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant above the hock.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step ~~is effected by~~ comprises affixing the transmitter as part of a tag ~~attachable~~ to a hind leg of the ruminant.

Claim 27 (New). A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a passive transponder.

Claim 28 (New). A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a full duplex transponder system.

Claim 29 (New). A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a half duplex transponder system.

Claim 30 (New). A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a transponder having a built-in battery.